

# **NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting**

**December 3, 2007 MINUTES**

**Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

---

Present: Joe DeVito (Chair), Richard Dyer, Peter Harrington, Joanne Kazarian, Officer Jim O'Doughlin, Stephen Ross, Terance Sack, John Staulo, Robert Staulo,  
Students: Kira Mascho, Katie Sanders, Theresa Staulo

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Marianne Cook, Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Stephanie Pelkowsky,  
Sharon O. Stout, Kirsten Tuohy  
Students: Greg Kelley, Devin Perry

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Students Matt Caminiti and Molly Gentilucci with Chris Fortunato, Director of NCSC's  
Teen Reach program; Hannah Floyd, NSHS student.

The meeting was opened at 7:10pm.

Introductions were made and guests were welcomed. Bev acknowledged Katie Saunders who was one of four students recently honored at the Human Rights Commission awards ceremony.

**A motion to accept the minutes of November 7, 2007 was passed.**

**Treasurer's report:** No report

**Youth Foundation Sub-Committee:** No report

## **Programs:**

The Youth Commission has been thinking about doing some kind of an Internet Safety Program. Chris Fortunato was asked to explain about his various presentations about Internet Safety. His forums with parents focus on the concerns of My-Space, Face-Book and appropriate email use.

He is hired by Project Alliance which exists through the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office to service the schools in Middlesex County. He goes to middle and high schools for audiences of typically 50-800 to make presentations on Internet Safety. He's been to Natick, Framingham and other communities. Richard asked if Newton is utilizing Chris's program. Two years ago he did Internet Safety seminar with parents through Project INTERFACE at the high school. New TV has been rerunning it on local access ever since, but he has not been hired through ~~the~~ services to do more.

Peter asked how we can best make internet safety apart of the awareness in Newton. Chris said teachers need to be trained but teachers are already stressed with large workloads. But if teachers were trained they could integrate this issue into the classrooms and therefore help to educate students. Creating awareness is important. Many parents do not realize to what extent their kids are utilizing the internet. Students don't realize the potential consequences of what they do. Christ tries to talk to students about using technology responsibly. There is monitoring software that parents can use that involves privacy and trust issues. Members expressed agreement that we would like to determine how we can promote Chris's programs in the Newton Middle Schools.

Katie's NSHS newspaper has an article coming out on how middle school students are creating accounts, pretending to be older. For example, you have to be a freshman in high school to be on Face-Book.

Peter reported that he spoke to Jenn Adams at New TV. They would be happy to tape programs that we run so that they can be rerun on their access channel for public viewing.

Chris brought Matt and Molly who are students on the Teen Center Board. He involves students in the work that they do. Members thanked Chris and the students for coming.

There were no other current programs to discuss.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.**

**The next meeting will be Monday, January 2 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria, unless cancelled due to weather or other reason.**